



Scores of people traveled through harsh weather to attend the 50th Anniversary Open House for Engine 30 Truck 17. Above, several members pose for a photo at the community event held April 2.



DC Fire & EMS Special Operations Division conducted a Mercury Spill Drill at Paul Public Charter School on April 28. The effort was to educate school personnel and students on proper procedures in the event of a Mercury spill.



Fire/EMS, MPD and military honor guards participated in operating ceremonies for the Washington Nationals game against the New York Mets on April 13 at RFK Stadium.



Members of Engine 10 and Truck 13 distributed toys and "Students of the Month" awards to children of Minor Elementary School on April 14th. The companies often provide crossing guard services to the students as they arrive for school.



# BEACON

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Fire/EMS Chief Thompson and AFC-O Martin were among the first to pass their facepiece fit tests when fit testing under the Respiratory Protection Plan began June 20. "The safety of our members is a top priority and the Respiratory Protection Plan is an essential safety measure," said Chief Thompson. Fit testing will continue at least three days a week until the entire Department has been tested.



★ ★ ★ **Adrian H. Thompson,**  
**Fire/EMS Chief**  
**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**

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**DC FEMS 4-1-1** Congratulations to retirees and graduates ...

Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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## Serial Arsonist Arrested



A more than two-year investigation involving dozens of local and federal fire and police jurisdictions came to a dramatic conclusion April 26 when it was announced that a suspect in the high-profile serial arson investigation had been arrested. The announcement came from Arson Task Force leaders that DC resident Thomas Sweatt was apprehended in Prince George's County that day. Sweatt, 50, faces a multitude of charges, including possible murder charges in the fire which killed an 86-year-old woman in June 2003. Sweatt, who managed a Kentucky Fried Chicken store at New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE, has reportedly confessed to several of the fires.

At a press conference at U.S. District Court, DC Fire & EMS Chief Adrian H. Thompson commended the tireless work of the many investigators who worked on the case.

## Safe Place

Youth in crisis on the streets of DC often do not know where to turn for help. A lack of appropriate shelter for troubled youth makes them increasingly vulnerable to crime and violence. In an effort to provide safe and secure

respite for these youth, on April 20 DC Fire & EMS and Sasha Bruce Youthwork announced their renewed partnership, making all 33 firehouses and the Fireboat Safe Places as part of Project Safe Place.

Large yellow "Safe Place" signs are posted outside all DC fire stations so that troubled youth can identify locations to seek refuge at any time — day or night. DC Fire & EMS has been a partner in Project Safe Place for more than 10 years. In conjunction with Sasha Bruce, the Department will be promoting and educating the general public about the program in schools and at other outreach events.

## Reaching Out to the Community

On April 6, the Customer Service Office had an outreach booth at The Washington Post Employee Health and Fitness Fair. Along with Fire Prevention Educators and EMS personnel, customer service staff gave out fire safety information, *Make the Right Call* brochures and made an AED presentation.

## Three Fire Investigators Honored for Law Enforcement



When commendations were handed out at the 25th Annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony on May 12, three DC Fire Investigators were among the recipients. For their outstanding performance in investigating and solving crimes of arson in the District, Sergeant Phillip Proctor and Investigators Gregory Bowyer and Gerald Pennington were recognized as among the finest such investigators in the nation.



Firefighter Robert Washington ran The Scope It Out 5K Run/Walk for Colon Cancer Awareness at Hains Point on March 19 in full gear.

## One Fund

The 50th Annual DC One Fund Campaign officially closed on March 31 with FEMS members contributing \$48,881.87. Chief Thompson said, "I would like to thank all FEMS employees for their charitable contributions to the District government's only official charitable fund-raiser, and look forward to your continued support in 2006."

## DC Emancipation Day 2005

This year's District Emancipation Day activities ran from April 11 to April 17. On April 16, Mayor Williams and several members of the DC Council joined hundreds of residents and friends to celebrate the annual DC Emancipation Holiday. DC Fire & EMS participated in the day-long event held at Freedom Plaza.

## Remarkable recovery

Lt. Tony Carroll of Truck 7 is making a remarkable recovery from a fall 30 feet down an open elevator shaft in a fire that, tragically, killed two people in January. Lt. Carroll has been recuperating at home



with high hopes of returning to work soon. Since the accident, Lt. Carroll has been featured in several news articles that have served to illustrate the dangers of firefighting and the heroism of firefighters.

## Arson Awareness Week

This year's Arson Awareness Week focused on juveniles who set fires. In an effort to stem a series of arson fires inside Eastern Sr. High School, Fire Marshal Richard Fleming and members of the Fire Prevention Division addressed students on May 3. Chief Fleming told students, "Setting fires is not fun or funny. It's something we take very seriously." About a half-dozen fires were set in trash cans or lockers at Eastern during the 2004-05 school year.

On May 4, fire safety educators conducted community fire safety training with students from Paul Public Charter School who are in their Preparing Residents in Disasters and Emergencies (PRIDE) Program. In an effort to assist the students with their goal of expanding emergency preparedness in the community, educators taught them to be fire safety wardens for neighborhoods. The training took place at the Fire Prevention Division.



In an effort to stem a series of arson fires inside Eastern Sr. High School, Fire Marshal Richard Fleming and members of the FPD addressed students May 3.

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## The tradition continues ...

The Department continues its practice of recognizing Fire/EMS personnel for heroic acts and outstanding service on the job. Bronze Bars, Commendations for Valor and Merit, Appreciation Awards, and Stars of Life were awarded to more than 100 Fire and EMS employees in a Departmental Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Wardman Hotel on May 17. At that same ceremony, Rescue Squad 3 was named "Company of the Year—2004" by the Departmental Advisory Board of Awards.



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## EMS Week Opening Ceremony Honors Georgetown Day High School Student



From right to left, Dr. Eric Glasser, Dr. Amit Wadhwa, Fire/EMS Chief Adrian H. Thompson, Mr. Hamilton Loeb (father), Max Loeb (son) and Ms. Karen V. Epstein (teacher).

The Department held the EMS Week Opening Ceremony at Georgetown Day High School on May 16. During the ceremony, Max Loeb a student at the school was recognized for his heroic action of performing CPR on his father, Hamilton Loeb.

## Child Safety Seat Checks and Installation Dates

The Department continues to offer resident's monthly

opportunities to have certified child safety seat technicians install and check child safety seats in their vehicles. Sessions are currently scheduled for one weekend day each month. The service will be available more often as the Department increases its number of certified technicians. The location for drop-in service alternates monthly between two firehouses: Engine 24 at 5101 Georgia Avenue, NW, and Engine 33 at 101 Atlantic Street, SE.

### Future Scheduled Dates:

Sunday, July 10, 2005	11:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday, August 14, 2005	11:00am – 3:00pm
Sunday, September 4, 2005	11:00am – 3:00pm

## New Look for Medic 1

Paramedic Matthew Shook gets the credit for Medic 1's new look. A new set of chrome wheel simulators and reflective US Seal decals spruce up the unit.



## International Women in Fire Service Conference



As part of the International Women in Fire Service (WFS) Conference (March 29-April 3) the DC Fire/EMS Training Academy hosted a series of training exercises on April 2. In addition to standard fire/rescue training, women attending the event took weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training and got instruction on how to deal with terrorist events. Several students from the District's Paul Public Charter School acted as mock victims in a WMD drill.



On May 15, The John Glenn, spouting water 70-feet into the air, led a parade of vessels celebrating the 30th Annual Blessing of the Fleet in the Washington Channel. Many boats sported creative decorations while more than 100 persons watched.

## DCFEMS 4-1-1

Congratulations to Sandy Kelley, PIO Staff Assistant who retired on April 29 after 42 years of District government service.

Kudos to the following 2005 Fire Science graduates from the University of The District of Columbia: Sergeant Brian David, BS Degree; Lieutenant Antonio Foster, AAS Degree; Captain Kyle Gans, BS Degree; Firefighter Natalie M. Overton, AAS Degree (completed requirements in 2004); Lieutenant Sylvester Robinson, AAS/BS Degree; and Captain Seth O. Sackey, BS Degree (completed requirements in 2004).

Welcome home to Lance Corporal Justin Palmer, son of Battalion Fire Chief Gary L. Palmer, who has returned to Camp Pendleton, California, after serving with the First Marine expeditionary force in Ramadi, Iraq, for an eight month tour of duty.

The department regrets the passing of the following retired members:

- Retired Firefighter Jack Burns who passed away on March 26,
- Retired Firefighter Merrill F. Cohan who passed away on April 1,
- Retired Firefighter James M. Chandler who passed away on April 6,
- Retired Firefighter William K. Morrow who passed away on April 11,
- Retired Lieutenant John W. Mullen, who passed away on April 29,
- Retired Lieutenant John T. Murphy, who passed away on May 17, 2005, and
- Retired Firefighter Harry E. Sparshott, who passed away on June 3, 2005.

Also, Honorary D.C.F.D. member Robert Mason, who passed away on March 29, 2005. Robert Mason served as President of the Friendship Fire Association in 1988 and had 20 years of service with the organization.



EMS Lt. Roberto Hernandez watched as his cousin's name was engraved on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington April 27. Edwin Hernandez was a 19-year veteran of the Suffolk County, NY, police department when he was killed in a traffic accident while on-duty July 27, 2004.

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